**Step 1:** Choose a piece of dramatic reading that is approximately 2-4 minutes in length.  It should be something that has meaning for you.  It can be a famous speech, an excerpt from a book, a monologue from a play, slam poetry, etc.

**Please do not write it yourself.** It must be **appropriate for school.**

**Step 2:** Copy the text into Google Docs and share with Mr. Baldwin by **Wednesday, March 4th for approval.**

**Step 3: Once your piece is approved, notate** your reading:

1. Type your introduction for the piece at the top of your paper and a reminder for yourself to pause afterwards. Your introduction should include your name, the title of your piece, the author and a few sentences about **why** you chose it.
2. Type the words, "Thank You" at the bottom of your paper and a reminder for yourself to pause before you say it.
3. Choose one color to highlight all punctuation so you remember to PAUSE at punctuation marks.
4. Choose another color to represent EMPHASIS. Highlight at least 3 phrases you want to emphasize.

**What are some ways to create emphasis in a dramatic reading? (We will discuss this.)**

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**Step 4:** Google Share your notated reading to Mr. Baldwin by **Friday, March 6th.**

**Step 5:** Print out a copy of your reading. **You must use a printed page during your presentation.** There is no need to memorize your selection.

**Step 6:** Practice! Be sure to time yourself. Your reading should be 2-4 minutes, including the introduction.

**Step 7:** Be prepared to present your piece to the class as early as **Friday, March 6th.**

**DO NOT JUST READ YOUR PIECE. YOU MUST *PRESENT* IT.**

**Good morning, my name is Mr. Baldwin and today I will be presenting the story of *Baucis and Philemon* from Ovid, a Roman poet from the first century. I first heard this story when my friend asked me to read it at her wedding. I have loved it ever since because it reinforces the importance of kindess, generosity and love, no matter who you are or what your background is.**

(Pause)

In the hills of Phrygia, an oak and a lime tree stand side by side, surrounded by a low wall. There is a swamp not far from there, once habitable land but now the haunt of diving-birds and marsh-loving animals. Jupiter went there, disguised as a mortal, and Mercury went with his father. A thousand houses they approached, looking for a place to rest: a thousand houses were locked and bolted. But one received them: it was humble it is true, roofed with reeds and stems from the marsh, but godly Baucis and the equally aged Philemon, had been wedded in that cottage in their younger years, and there had grown old together.

So when the gods from heaven met the humble couple, and stooping down, passed the low doorway, the old man pulled out a bench, and requested them to rest their limbs, while over the bench Baucis threw a rough blanket. Then she raked over the warm ashes in the hearth, and brought yesterday's fire to life, feeding it with leaves and dried bark, nursing the flames with her aged breath. There was little delay, before the fire provided its hot food, and the wine circulated. There were nuts, and a mix of dried figs and wrinkled dates; plums, and sweet-smelling apples in open wicker baskets; and grapes gathered from the purple vines. In the centre was a gleaming honeycomb. Above all, there was the presence of well-meaning faces, and no unwillingness, or poverty of spirit.

In time the gods revealed themselves as immortal and told the couple that they would be rewarded for their hospitality and charity toward peasants. The son of Saturn spoke, calmly, to them: "Ask of us, virtuous old man, and you, virtuous old woman, what you wish."

When he had spoken briefly with Baucis, Philemon revealed their joint request to the gods. "We ask to be priests and watch over your temple, and, since we have lived out harmonious years together, let the same hour take the two of us, so that I never have to see my wife's grave, nor she have to bury me." The gods' assurance followed the prayer. They had charge of the temple while they lived: and when they were released by old age and by the years as they chanced to be standing by the sacred steps, discussing the subject of their deaths, Baucis saw Philomen put out leaves, and old Philemon saw Baucis put out leaves, and as the tops of the trees grew over their two faces, they exchanged words, while they still could, saying, in the same breath: "Farewell, O dear companion", as, in the same breath, the bark covered them, concealing their mouths.

The people of Bithynia still show the neighbouring trees, there, that sprang from their two bodies.

(Pause)

**Thank You**